

weapons systems and associated ammunition. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including two Army Research and Development Achievement Awards, the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Association of the United States Army Citation for Exceptional Service in Support of National Defense, the American Defense Preparedness Association Firepower Award for Management. He has also been inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. He holds two patents and has authored numerous open literature technical publications.

While he built a long and valuable career in service to our warfighters, Mike Devine still found time to give back to his home community. In 1992, he was elected to a four year term on the Sparta, New Jersey, Township Council and was reelected in 1996. He also served as Mayor in 1994 and 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I have just outlined a public service career of exceptional quality. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mike Devine for his many contributions to our national security. We wish Mike and his family "God-speed" in the months and years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
THOMAS D. BUTLER, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man that has dedicated his life to protecting our country. Colonel Thomas D. Butler, Jr. After 35 years fulfilling vital support functions in the United States Army, Colonel Butler is retiring.

Thomas Butler joined the Army Reserve as a private in 1969 and served at the Engineering and Plans Section of the 411th Engineer Brigade at Fort Tilden, New York until his commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1974, upon which he commanded a platoon at the 306th Engineer Company in Amityville, New York. In July 1977, Butler was assigned to the New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an Assistant Military Area Engineer. In 1987, he returned to the 411th Engineer Brigade and was called to active duty when the Brigade was deployed to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Upon returning to reserve status in 1991, Butler assumed command of the 305th Engineer Detachment. During his command, this unit was awarded the U.S. Army Superior Unit Citation and Butler conducted numerous missions in the Republic of Korea and Germany. In 1995 he joined the 77th Regional Support Command as the chief, Plans Division, in the DCS ENGINEER section. In 2001, Butler became Acting Commander of the 8th Brigade (SROTC), 98th Division, and then Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff-Operations, ADCSOPS-OPS of the 77th RSC. In 2002, Butler was reassigned as Deputy Chief of Staff-engineers, DCS-ENGINEER, and then as the first Deputy Chief of Staff—Army Reserve Installation Management.

Colonel Butler is a highly-decorated soldier. His citations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve

Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with Service Star, the Kuwait Liberation Medal from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and the New York State Conspicuous Service medal.

In his civilian capacity, Butler is a Senior Project Manager for the Tishman Interiors Construction Corporation and the former Commissioner of Buildings for the City of Mount Vernon, New York. Butler resides in Tarrytown. I would like to join his wife Cheryl and their children Brent, Kimberly, Blake, Ashley, and all his relatives and friends in congratulating him and wishing him well in his retirement.

HONORING ALVIN BENJAMIN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect in honoring Alvin Benjamin for his strong commitment to assisting and advocating for victims of child abuse.

Al has been a dedicated supporter of the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect, helping them carry out their mission of being a voice for all children. This non-profit organization is devoted to preventing child abuse and expanding services to children and their families. In achieving these goals, the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect educates the community about the issues surrounding child abuse and works with them to find adequate solutions to the problems.

In addition to providing aid for child abuse victims, Al is also the Founder and President of the Benjamin Companies, a nationally acclaimed real estate development and management company. The guiding force behind the Benjamin Companies is developing communities that are in harmony with both the residents and the environment. Al started this organization in the early 1960's by building luxury apartment complexes on Long Island, and meeting the needs of the increased number of Long Island residents. Today, the Benjamin Companies has greatly expanded its activities to include projects in New York City (and the surrounding metropolitan areas), New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and even Florida, while continuing to service the residents of Long Island.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Alvin Benjamin for his support for and dedication to victims of child abuse. As the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect celebrates 25 years of service to children, they chose to recognize Al's important contributions at their annual Voice for All Children Gala. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Alvin Benjamin and the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect for their efforts in preventing child abuse and wishing them both many more years of success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BOVARD
FAMILY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize to the Bovard Family and their distinguished tradition in the horse industry. Their dedication and success in the industry is due to the contributions of four generations of Bovard family members working on the farm. It is my privilege today in recognizing their achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

The Bovard legacy began forty-three years ago when Larry Bovard went out to the race track to look for work after admiring his older brother's work as a horse trainer. He landed a job as a horse groomer for a horse racing tycoon and continued there until he moved onto other work before joining the army in 1969. Upon his return from service, Larry settled in Ridgeway, Colorado with his wife Roma, raising cattle. Roma's family had raised Percheron horses for years and in 1984, the Bovards got their chance to raise their own team. The Bovard family gave sleigh rides, wagon rides, and drove newlyweds about in stage coaches until they acquired ranch property of their own in Montrose. Currently the Bovards have 30 head of award-winning Percheron horses that placed in nine out of twelve class competitions at the National Western Stock Show.

Mr. Speaker, the Bovard family has demonstrated a love for horses that has transcended four generations and their success today is due to the dedication that the entire family puts in day after day from dawn to dusk. I am honored to recognize their accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

HONORING ROBERT POIROT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Robert Poirot for his exemplary public service as Clear Creek County Commissioner for the past twelve years. I would also like to thank him on behalf of all Coloradans for the in-depth and diverse philanthropic work he has contributed to the community. He is a dedicated public servant who has devoted himself to ensuring that Colorado remains a very special place to live.

Throughout his life, Bob has demonstrated time and time again that he excels in all of his endeavors. Whether it is in the Armed Forces, education, or government, Bob has shown that he can apply his leadership skills effectively in any arena. He has received numerous awards during his long and extensive career, most recently the prestigious Distinguished Service Award of Colorado Counties, Inc. . . . This award is a true testament to Bob's abilities to work together with all interests for the common good.

Between 1959 and 1992, Bob achieved the rank of Brigadier General in the Colorado Army National Guard. During this time, he also